

Application Serial No: 10/070,271
Filed: June 13, 2002
Group Art Unit: 3764

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-12 and 16 were previously cancelled.

Claim 13 is currently amended.

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis comprising:
a strapping member adapted for use on a lower leg having an ankle and a foot;
said strapping member having an anterior longitudinal stiffener, wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener is constructed from a reinforced resin to be inflexibly rigid;
a sole plate; and
a strut, wherein said strut is constructed from a reinforced resin to be resiliently and flexibly configurable, and
wherein said strut connects said longitudinal stiffener and said sole plate, said strut extending to said sole plate at an outer side thereof, and anterior of a position of the ankle,
~~extends from said anterior longitudinal stiffener to a lateral side of said sole plate such that said strut is disposed adjacent an anterior portion of said ankle to connect said anterior longitudinal stiffener with said strut.~~

14. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein at least a portion of said strut and said sole plate is manufactured substantially of one of glass fibre and aramid fibre reinforced resin, and wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener is manufactured of a carbon fibre reinforced resin.

15. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein said sole plate includes a plate area having an inflexibly rigid portion and a flexibly non-rigid portion for supporting said foot while allowing toes on said foot to bend .

16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein the strapping member is adapted to extend around the sides of said leg, and has securing straps adapted to accommodate a variation in leg thickness.

18. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 17, wherein said strapping member is constructed from a soft thermoplastic material so as to be mouldable by application of heat.

19. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein said strut is encased.

20. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 19, wherein said strut is encased in a sleeve of plastic material.

21. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 20, wherein said sleeve is heat shrinkable to allow said sleeve to be tightly moulded to the contours of said strut.

22. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein fasteners are provided and whereby the said anterior longitudinal stiffener is longitudinally movable relative to said strapping member

23. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 22, wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener is disposed on an inside portion of said strapping member.

24. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 13, wherein said strapping member includes a channel and wherein said anterior longitudinal stiffener resides in said channel.

25. (Previously Amended) An ankle and foot orthosis according to claim 24, wherein said channel includes an opening disposed in a bottom portion of said channel.